

- (i) Whether the Industrial sector requires the presence of the public sector as a countervailing force to prevent concentration of power in private hands, and.
- (ii) Whether the Industrial sector requires a proper regulatory mechanism to protect the consumer interests before Public Sector Enterprises are privatised.

(d) and (e) Disinvestment in the Public Sector Enterprises is carried out as per the prescribed procedure involving inter ministerial consultations at various levels. A decision to disinvest in a company is taken after considering all the relevant factors. While implementing the decisions of the Government, a tentative time table for the transaction is agreed to, however, the actual timing of disinvestment in a company depends on various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the company, terms and conditions of sale, interest shown by the investors/buyers and advice of the advisors to the Government.

Newsitem in Marathi Daily "SAMANA"

2977. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Marathi Daily "SAMANA", dated 26th June, 2000 regarding the privatisation of Qutub Minar; Ganga Ghat; Soorati Somnath; Surya Mandir of Konark; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item *inter-alia* stated that the Government has handed over the maintenance of several monuments of cultural importance to private parties for maintenance. The facts of the case are that no centrally protected monument has been handed over for maintenance to any private party. The Government has established a National Culture

Fund in which the interested individuals, corporate houses and industry may make donations/contributions for the preservation of the monuments. National Culture Fund also provides that any individual or a corporate sector may adopt any monument for its preservation/maintenance and development. The adoption will be under certain terms and conditions and for a limited time.